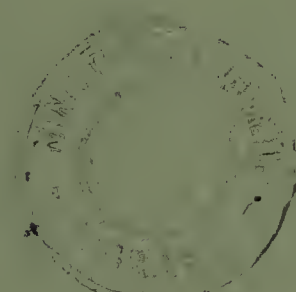


Library

SANDOWN-SHANKLIN
(ISLE OF WIGHT)
URBAN DISTRICT



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Senior Public Health
Inspector

1959

Sandown-Shanklin Urban District Council

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE,
1959-60**

Chairman: E. S. Weston, Esq.

Chairman of the Council: W. G. Gray, Esq., J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman of the Council: E. W. Austin, Esq., C.A.

Vice-Chairman of the Committee: G. E. Boynton, Esq.

N. F. Baker, Esq.

E. G. A. Carpenter, Esq.

J. P. Darch, Esq.

D. H. Price Esq.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. D. RUSSELL, M.B., B.S. (Syd.), D.P.H. (Lond.).
(Office—County Hall, Newport. Tel. Newport 2261).

35% Borough of Ryde, Sandown-Shanklin and Ventnor
U.D.C.'s (Combined population 39,450).

65% Assistant County Medical Officer and Assistant
School Medical Officer.

Senior Public Health Inspector,

Shops Inspector,

Petroleum Inspector,

NEVILLE L. G. TUBB, D.P.A. (Lond.), M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
(1, 2, 3 (Hons.) and 4).

1. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Meat and Food Inspection Certificate of the Royal
Sanitary Institute.
3. Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and
Hygiene.
4. Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary
Institute.

Clerk: Miss S. Hoskins

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1959

To the Chairman and Councillors

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances for the year 1959 in accordance with the direction of the Minister of Health.

Statistics

General. This year we enjoyed a glorious summer, the finest since 1947.

In the Meteorological Office Official Ranking for sunshine (excluding the Channel Islands) Shanklin was 1st and Sandown 3rd for the year.

For sunshine in Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the months of July, August and September 1959, Shanklin's sunshine total was the highest recorded in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the Channel Islands.

Vital. The Birth Statistics manifest a constancy, apart from the welcome reduction in the number of illegitimate births.

The total number of deaths is 10 up on last year accounting for the consequent increased death rate figures.

I am sorry to have to record a maternal death.

The Infant Mortality Rates, higher than last year but representing only 3 deaths compared to 2, approximate almost exactly to that for England and Wales as a whole.

Causes of Death

The inexorable increase in the number of deaths from cardio-vascular diseases and cancer of the lung poses a pertinent challenge to workers in the field of Preventive Medicine.

Nationally, deaths from coronary heart disease continued to increase from 76,324 in 1957 and 84,041 in 1958 to 84,920 in 1959, giving an annual death-rate of 1.87 per thousand of population. Deaths from cancer of the lung numbered 21,063, an increase of 1,243 over the 1958 figures.

Little progress was made in ascertaining the causes of coronary-artery disease. One worker showed that when the level of fats in the blood was high, the blood-flow through the coronary arteries was decreased and the removal of oxygen by the heart muscle diminished. There was strong cumulative evidence from statistical surveys of an association between coronary disease and a high consumption of animal fats. Other investigations suggested that patients with coronary heart disease did not remove fatty substances from the blood

as rapidly as normal persons. Other studies indicated that the hormones liberated by a portion of the adrenal glands in response to "stress" conditions, tend to cause an elevation of the fat levels in the blood. From personal experience there is little doubt that "stress" plays a predominant role, however this is difficult to elucidate as there is not as yet available a quantitative measure of "stress".

The still-increasing incidence of cancer of the lung has been ascribed to a number of causes but it seems incontrovertible from the great weight of collateral evidence, clinical, chemical and pathological, that cigarette smoking plays a substantial part in the causation of cancer of the lung.

Deaths by accident are also increasing at an alarming rate and although there were only 2 accidental deaths in the district, we must not lose sight of the existing problem. Lord Kilmuir spoke of the number of deaths on the roads as one of the "tragic problems overshadowing the scientific and material advance of mankind". This carnage on the roads tends to obscure the fact that it claims only about one third of all accidental deaths, whereas more than 40 per cent occur in the home. On an average day, 50 people are killed accidentally in Great Britain, 21 of these in the home. The number of injuries in the home is not known, but has been estimated as between 75,000 and 100,000 serious and about one million slight.

The prevention of Home Accidents falls within the province of Public Health and mainly depends on Health Education.

The chief victims of accidents in the home are the very young and the elderly, with women forming the majority of casualties, in the three main categories—falls, poisoning, burns and scalds. Falls cause many more deaths in the home than all other forms of accidents combined.

Legislation for the prevention of domestic accidents is largely impractical and is limited to the Children and Young Person (Amendment) Act, 1952, The Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1953 both of which are concerned with open fires and heating appliances and The Fabrics (Misdescription) Act of 1913 which prohibits the sale of textile fabrics or garments described as non-inflammable, which do not conform to a prescribed standard but it does not prohibit the sale of highly inflammable fabrics bearing no description.

As I have said the mainstay of our efforts lies in Health Education.

The decline in the number of tubercular deaths in the country continues and none were recorded in the district.

That there were no deaths from diphtheria in the district nor in the whole country, is an unqualified endorsement of the procedure of immunisation against the disease. In 1940 in England and Wales there were 2,480 deaths due to diphtheria.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases

By far the most prevalent disease this year has been a 24 to 48 hour illness, characterised by diarrhoea and vomiting, the one or the other predominant, highly infective and recurring, mild in all but a few cases and by its nature, self limiting. It has occurred in explosive outbreaks throughout the community affecting young and old, residents and visitors alike. Examination of specimens in the laboratory has been consistently negative. The disease has been prevalent on the mainland where it commenced late in 1958. Consideration of all its manifestations would seem to clearly label it a virus disease and incidentally non-notifiable.

In October there was a general outbreak of food poisoning in a Shanklin hotel involving 49 cases (36 notified). In spite of an immediate investigation the source of the poisoning was not discovered but the causal organism was thought to be a staphylococcus. The Ministry has drawn attention to the danger of cooking meat, allowing it to cool, often overnight, and reheating it before serving. This is due to the presence of staphylococci in the meat before or after cooking, producing an enterotoxin, which is a highly heat resistant substance that can survive boiling for 30 minutes. Fortunately, none of the 49 cases was serious. Further, the hotel concerned maintains the high standard of hygiene found throughout the catering industry in the district.

There was also a family outbreak of 2 cases, man and wife, both of whom were admitted to hospital. A pork pie they had consumed was thought to be the source of infection. Again a staphylococcus was probably the causal agent and again after a full investigation we were unable to bring the matter to its ultimate conclusion.

Investigation of a case of paratyphoid fever in November revealed that the disease had been contracted in Spain.

Three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified compared with 11 cases last year, a trend hoped for and reasonably expected as reported last year. Progress continues in the preventive field with improvements in the standards of living and hygiene, the isolation of infectious cases and active measures such as vaccination (B.C.G.), but mass radiography remains the best method of finding undetected infectious cases.

Arrangements were made for a Mass Radiography Unit to visit the Island in 1960.

A case of highly infective drug resistant pulmonary tuberculosis was found working in a cafe, however, due to the council's immediate firm support the employment was terminated and serious consequences avoided.

The Chest Physician, The County Medical Officer and the District Medical Officers held a meeting on tuberculosis services at the Royal National Hospital, Ventnor, in April and June.

No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year and indeed there were few in the country. Further, in England and Wales there were 66 deaths, the lowest figure since records started in 1911.

That this happy state of affairs is due to vaccination is perhaps too early to conclude. In July, 1958, the Government extended the offer of vaccination to people born in the years 1933 to 1942, and to hospital and nursing home staff, medical students and their families. An intensive publicity campaign and vaccination programme was carried out on the Island from May 30th till the end of July.

Sandown-Shanklin Council co-operated fully in this endeavour.

By the end of June, it was estimated that 94 per cent of children aged up to 15 years and 56 per cent of young people aged between 15 and 26 years had been registered.

World wide reports confirm that protection against paralysis in the first year following two injections varies between 60 and 80 per cent. In order to achieve a higher degree of protection a third injection seven to twelve months after the second is now recommended.

As a result of his extensive investigation into the disease Brucellosis on the Island, the County Medical Officer called two meetings of all concerned at County Hall. The result of this investigation is not as yet published.

Public Swimming Baths

The only swimming bath open to the public, is an open air pool, privately owned, and situated on the Esplanade at Sandown.

The pool is 24ft. \times 140ft. and has a depth varying from 3ft.6in. to 8ft.6in. The total capacity of the pool is 126,000 gallons, and water is obtained from the sea.

An efficient plant provides filtration, chlorination, aeration and constant circulation of the water, a change rate of 10,000 gallons per hour being achieved.

The pool is only open during the seasonal summer months, and despite its proximity to the shore, proves extremely popular. This is no doubt due to a number of factors, viz: shelter from wind, absence of waves, availability of diving and other facilities, and safety supervision.

The pool is used during term time by a number of schools for swimming tuition.

The management and the Public Health Department carry out frequent chloroscopic tests to ascertain the residual chlorine content which must be sufficient to ensure a good bacteriological standard and yet not be such as to cause bathers irritation or distress.

Samples are taken at frequent intervals and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination.

It is to the credit of the pool management, and satisfying to the public to note, that of all samples taken during the last seven seasons, there has not been a single unsatisfactory result.

Problem Families

I attended two meetings of the officers concerned in the welfare of so-called Problem Families. These families may be described as those, who are unable to cope, on their own, with a problem or problems and need the assistance of an outside agency. Very often the answer in these cases is re-housing and due to the enlightened and sympathetic consideration given them by the Public Health Committee, many of these families have obtained council houses.

Removal of Persons in need of Care and Attention

No action was required during the year under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. This, I believe, is largely due to the excellent work being done for old people by the County Welfare Officers, the District Nurses and the Health Visitors, the Senior Public Health Inspector and members of Voluntary Organisations.

Health Education

Health Education forms the very warp and woof of Public Health work and is an integral part of our daily affairs. As I have said, our major effort this year was the poliomyelitis vaccination campaign. Nineteen talks on Public Health matters were given during the year, sixteen of them by the Senior Public Health Inspector.

Mortuary Accommodation

A meeting was called on the 6th May by H.M. Coroner to discuss the present unsatisfactory mortuary accommodation. He suggested a central mortuary maintained jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the Local Authorities to be built at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport. The proposal is under consideration.

Conferences and Courses

The Royal Society for the Promotion of Health held a meeting at Newport on the 5th June at which more than 120 delegates attended.

Papers were read on sewage contamination of coastal waters and on static caravan sites. In the afternoon a group visited the new sewage works at Sandown and later were the guests of the Chairman for tea.

On the 10th June I attended a one day course on "The Catarrhal Child" in London.

New Legislation

The Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, Etc.) Regulations 1959 and The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 amend and consolidate previous regulations.

The Factories Act, 1959, makes further provision as to the health, safety and welfare of workers.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 relates to the new "standard grants" and improvement grants. Local authorities have a duty to make "standard grants" for the provision of a bath, wash hand basin, hot water supply, water closet and satisfactory food storage in houses which lack such amenities. With certain exceptions these provisions do not apply to houses provided after 1944. The amount of the "standard grant" is limited to one half the cost of the works, subject to a maximum of £155 7s. 0d.

The Housing (Underground Rooms) Act, 1959 restores to local authorities, the powers which they had under the Housing Act, 1936, to close certain insanitary basement rooms.

The Mental Health Act, 1959 makes sweeping new provisions for the care and treatment of the mentally sick, and for the management of their property and affairs.

The National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1959 makes provision for determining the local authority liable for providing Pt. III accommodation, i.e. accommodation for the aged, infirm or incapable people.

Staff

I have with the very sincerest regret to announce the death of my clerk, Miss M. I. Martin, on the 14th November, after two years of illness.

The position of additional Public Health Inspector remains unfilled and consequently the work of the department has suffered, however, I have every reason to hope the vacancy will be filled early next year.

Acknowledgements

Mr. Tubb, the Senior Public Health Inspector, deserves the highest commendation for the quantity and quality of his work and I should like to thank him for the whole hearted support he has given me.

I wish to thank the Clerks, Mrs. D. Nicholson, deputizing for the late Miss Martin, and Miss S. Hoskins, for doing their work throughout the year so pleasantly and well. I thank, too, my present Clerk, Mr. B. Pierce for his help in compiling this report.

In conclusion, I thank the Sandown-Shanklin Public Health Committee for the active interest they have shown in all public health matters and for according me the fullest co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN D. RUSSELL,

Medical Officer of Health

Statistics

(1) GENERAL

Area of Urban District (in acres)	...	...	3,509
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959)					
according to rate book	...	...	5,313
Rateable Value (as at 31.3.59)	...	...	£279,180
Sum represented by 1d. rate (1958/59)	...	...	£1,095
	<i>Sandown</i>	<i>Shanklin</i>			
Total Hours of Sunshine during 1959	2152.1	2234.7			
	<i>Sandown</i>	<i>Shanklin</i>			
Jan.	108.6	111.2	July	334.7	345.1
Feb.	72.8	79.0	Aug.	253.9	268.9
Mar.	138.0	140.3	Sept.	257.4	266.2
Apr.	173.8	185.6	Oct.	173.0	178.4
May	269.4	276.0	Nov.	66.7	68.5
June	261.1	271.1	Dec.	42.7	44.4

(2) VITAL

Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	12,630		
BIRTHS	M.	F.		
No. of live legitimate births	72	61	133	
No. of live illegitimate births	1	2	...	3
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population				10.7
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	...	1.19
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...	12.7
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales				16.5
No. of legitimate stillbirths	—	—	...	—
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	—	—	...	—
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...			Nil
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	136
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	2.2
DEATHS	M.	F.		
Total No. of deaths	96	113	...	209
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		...	...	16.5
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	...	...	0.71
Comparative Death Rate	...	...	...	11.7
Death Rate England and Wales		...	...	11.6
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	...	...		1
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	7.4

Statistics —continued

DEATHS

No. of deaths of legitimate	M.	F.		
infants under 1 year of age	3	—	...	3
No. of deaths of illegitimate				
infants under 1 year of age	—	—	...	Nil
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	22.1
Death Rate legitimate infants per 1,000				
legitimate live births	...	...	...	22.5
Death Rate illegitimate infants per 1,000				
illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	...	22.2
Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	22.1
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live				
births	...	...	...	14.7
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and				
still births	...	...	...	14.7

Causes of Death

CAUSE				MALE		FEMALE	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	(1)	—	(1)	
Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	(1)	—	(1)	
Diphtheria	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Measles	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	1	(1)	—	(—)	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	11	(8)	3	(—)	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	(—)	2	(4)	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	(—)	3	(3)	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	9	(8)	6	(9)	
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Diabetes	...	...	—	(1)	—	(—)	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	22	(17)	29	(22)	
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	19	(20)	19	(13)	
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	(3)	6	(3)	
Other heart disease	...	...	9	(17)	23	(25)	
Other circulatory disease	...	...	3	(2)	2	(1)	
Influenza	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Pneumonia	...	...	9	(5)	1	(5)	
Bronchitis	...	...	3	(4)	—	(1)	
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	—	(1)	—	(1)	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	(3)	—	(—)	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	(—)	1	(2)	
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	(—)	2	(—)	
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	(1)	—	(—)	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	(—)	1	(—)	
Congenital malformations	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	5	(3)	13	(3)	
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	—	(3)	1	(1)	
All other accidents	...	...	—	(2)	1	(2)	
Suicide	...	...	1	(—)	—	(2)	
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	(—)	—	(—)
ALL CAUSES	...	...	96	(101)	113	(99)	

N.B.—Figures for 1958 are entered in brackets.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases

Disease.			Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	1	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	1	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	27	1	—
Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection			—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	5	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)			—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non- Paralytic)	...	...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	38	2	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	1	1	—
Acute Encephalitis (Post- infectious)	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)			3	—	—
Tuberculosis (Meninges & C.N.S.)			—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Other)	...	...	2	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Total			78	5	—

Age at Date of Notification

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Meningococcal Infection	Whooping Cough	Poliomylitis (Paralytic)	Poliomylitis (Non-Paralytic)	Food Poisoning	Paratyphoid Fever	Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	Tuberculosis (Meninges & C.N.S.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Dysentery
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	—	1	—	2	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	1	—	2	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	1	—	27	—	—	5	—	—	38	1	—	3	—	2	—

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	2
(b)	Number of cases	...	...	...	38
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	Nil

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases (Schools return)

Chicken pox	...	...	...	...	271
Mumps	...	...	...	...	48
German Measles	...	...	...	...	3
Influenza and Influenzal Colds	...	...	...	...	322
Measles	...	...	...	...	2
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	5
Tonsilitis	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	4

658
Tuberculosis

AGE PERIODS				New Cases			Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	Totals
				M	F	M	F	M	F	Totals
0 and under	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 „ „	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ „	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ „	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ „	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ „	35	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 „ „	45	—	2	1	1	4	—	—	—	—
45 „ „	55	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
55 „ „	65	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
65 „ „	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and over		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	3	2	2	1	8	—	—	—	—

*This total includes 3 transfers from the mainland.
In addition one patient on the Tuberculosis Register died from another cause.

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Acts, 1944

Number of samples taken during 1958	...	23
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive		Nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	... ..	Nil

TOWN HALL,
SHANKLIN, I.W.

To the Chairman and Councillors,

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my seventh annual report on the sanitary circumstances of the Urban District and the work undertaken during 1959.

This report is set out as a separate section by courtesy of Dr. J. D. Russell, Medical Officer of Health.

The year has brought less new legislation effecting the work of the department, than has been the case for some years past.

The long fine summer brought less complaints than might have been anticipated under such conditions, but there was an increase in settlements, defective roofs due to timber shrinkage, drainage defects, due, in many cases, to the prolonged dry warm weather.

As has been the case throughout the entire post war period, the cost of building, repairs and alterations and the purchase price of equipment generally, continued to increase.

For this reason the tendency to carry out temporary or "cut price" repairs is more prevalent. It would appear that only costly experience and not advice, can convince, in some cases, that it is more economical to have work done properly at one attempt than to have several attempts which prove unsatisfactory and still ultimately necessitate proper attention.

In another respect, piecemeal additions and adaptations are often made to business premises. Individually these may be exempt from byelaw control but often result after a period of years in a conglomeration of unsatisfactory lean-to structures, covered ways etc., which are unsightly and unsatisfactory in regard to the efficient working in the premises. More thought, and a planned policy of development, even if undertaken progressively, would provide a better result at little, if any, extra cost.

Apart from the increase of "Do it Yourself" it is unwise to assume that the small jobbing builder, who was trained, perhaps as a carpenter, can with a semi-skilled labourer, undertake and provide good workmanship in plumbing, bricklaying or electrical work even if he is prepared to attempt the job at less cost than the firms employing men experienced in those trades.

Although the position of Additional Public Health Inspector is still unfilled, I have every confidence that readvertising on a higher salary scale will enable an appointment to be made. If this is a correct assumption, the report for next year should reflect a reduction in the accumulation of work and an increase in attention to the more vital aspects of departmental work.

I would again pay tribute to the conscientious work of my clerk, Miss S. Hoskins, who has again willingly undertaken duties not normally her responsibility.

I would also record my appreciation of the support given by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee and the other Members of the Council, and of the co-operation given by my colleagues in other departments.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

N. L. G. TUBB,

Senior Public Health Inspector

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The Isle of Wight Water Board, which is an ad hoc authority upon which all local authorities on the Island are represented, is responsible for the main supplies for the Urban District.

The supply is in three main sections, two sections are linked and interchanged to some extent, according to supply and demand, particularly during the summer months.

During the year under review some further progress has been made with improvements, but no major works have been undertaken which affect the supplies to this district.

SANDOWN

The main sources of supply for this area are the East Yar River and Dyers Springs at Newchurch. The supply serves Sandown and Lake and when other supplies are inadequate, part of Shanklin and other areas outside the district also draw from these sources.

As a temporary expedient, modifications have been carried out at the Sandown Pumping Station which has allowed the new intake to be used to a greater extent than hitherto, but more comprehensive works have had to be deferred.

As in 1958, some complaints were received early in the year regarding an objectionable taste to the water. This is known to be due to the presence of small quantities of phenol. The complaints were, however, far less numerous and the use of the activated carbon process removed any further cause for complaint.

SHANKLIN

The catchment areas of Greatwoods and Cowlease provide the main supply for this section, although two small outlying areas derive their supplies from Wroxall and Chillerton respectively.

LUCCOMBE VILLAGE

St. Boniface Down is the source of water for this area. After treatment it is pumped to the reservoirs, which were enlarged in 1958 and from there the water gravitates to the village supply mains.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES

There are a few outlying farms and cottages and six houses which derive their supply from five private sources. Domestic purification and filtration equipment has been installed in all but two houses.

There are in addition four other private sources used for farm purposes but not for dairy or domestic use.

GENERAL

During the year 205 samples of water were taken for bacteriological analysis from domestic supplies. Thirty-one of these were taken by the department, the remaining 174 by the Isle of Wight Water Board. The results were:—

Sandown-Shanklin Urban District Council**1959 Water Supplies**

<i>Classification</i>		<i>Untreated Sources</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Private Sources</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Satisfactory	...	5	12	6	23
Suspicious	...	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	...	5	2	1	8
TOTALS	...	10	14	7	31

Four samples taken from swimming pool *all* satisfactory.

Isle of Wight Water Board**1959 Water Supplies**

<i>Classification</i>		<i>Untreated</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Satisfactory	...	5	79	84
Suspicious	...	10	2	12
Unsatisfactory	...	78	—	78
TOTALS	...	93	81	174

This division resulted from changed facilities for analysis and the responsibility for sampling being accepted by the Water Board on a centralised basis.

All water samples for bacteriological analysis are now submitted to the Public Health Central Laboratory at Portsmouth instead of the Public Health Laboratory, Ryde as hitherto.

The department also took 14 miscellaneous water samples, 2 were of seepage water and 12 from various points in a stream to ascertain the degree and origin of contamination.

SWIMMING POOL

The only swimming pool in the district, which is open to the public is an open air pool, privately owned.

Sea water is used and this is in constant circulation and treated by chlorination, filtration and aeration.

Four samples taken for analysis were all classified as satisfactory, showing no contamination.

Routine residual chlorine tests are frequently taken both by this department and the pool operators.

During the year extensive works were undertaken to provide new floors and drainage in the changing accommodation and to improve the layout.

Sewers and Drainage

Sewers

Two main outfalls to the sea serve the district at present. One for Sandown and Lake and one for Shanklin.

The new scheme is now nearing completion and will be in operation before the commencement of the 1960 season. There will then be only one outfall, that being at Sandown and this will extend out to sea for over twice the distance of the present outfall.

All sewage will be treated by screening and sedimentation at the new Sandown sewage works before being pumped to sea at suitable times according to the tides.

Drainage and Public Sewers (subject to Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936).

349 visits were made in connection with investigating, testing and supervising the repair and renewal of drainage works during the year. This excludes drainage work for new buildings for which the Surveyor is responsible.

During the year it was found necessary to renew or extensively repair and improve a number of ex-combined drains which are now (Section 24) public sewers. The cost of such work is recovered from the owners of the properties concerned, and while this is sometimes a heavy expense in relation to premises with low rentals, it not only effects an improvement in the sanitation but also enhances the value of the property.

Public Cleansing

All refuse collected in the district is disposed of by controlled tipping on marsh land adjoining the sewage works at Sandown.

Considerable difficulty was experienced at times during the year in gaining access to the tip owing to excavations and work in progress on the construction of the new sewage pumping station and sedimentation tanks. Despite these difficulties, satisfactory conditions have been maintained. A potential nuisance from flies which developed comparatively early in the year was effectively dealt with by increased spraying treatment.

It is to be regretted that uncertainty of demand in the waste paper market and the disadvantage of freight costs to the mainland, precludes the salvage of waste paper from being a revenue producing activity.

A weekly collection service is provided for all but a few isolated premises within the district.

During the summer months this service is augmented to deal with the very considerable increase in refuse output.

The provision of many additional litter bins helps to some extent to prevent the indiscriminate disposal of litter, but the tidyness can only result from public conscience in this matter. The cost of scavenging public streets, walks and parks is still far higher than it need be if the public were more "anti-litter" minded.

Camping Sites

Seven sites were relicensed for use as sites for moveable dwellings. Four of these are situated in the Sandown ward and three in Shanklin.

Five are licensed for caravans only, one for caravans and tents and one for tents only. This last site is only occupied at the peak season and caters mainly for camps of organised bodies, e.g. Boy Scouts, Boys Brigades, etc.

During the year applications were made under Town Planning for the establishment of two further sites. The applications were refused in both cases and appeals have been lodged and now await hearing and Ministerial decision.

Site occupation is comprised almost entirely of trailer caravans which remain on site and are for letting to summer visitors. Mainly because of ferry difficulties there are few itinerant caravans to deal with.

A total area of 54 acres is licensed on the seven sites and the total permitted maximum of caravans remains unchanged at approximately 600.

There were also three individual licences to station caravans on approved plots, issued during the year.

None of the sites in the district are residential. Occupation is permitted only between 1st March and 31st October each year.

Amenities provided on sites are satisfactory, sanitary accommodation (water carriage systems), domestic washing facilities, showers, baths, etc., being provided. All sites have main drainage except one which has a private sewage disposal plant.

The general standard of layout is satisfactory although during the year under review more supervision than usual was necessary regarding tidyness and minor contraventions.

In the case of one site it was necessary to serve notice because of serious contravention of the licence conditions.

During the year seven of the complaints received necessitated departmental investigation but in the main these were of a comparatively trivial nature and could have been avoided by tact and more efficient site management.

Insect Pest Control

Despite the prolonged dry summer, the number of disinfestations found necessary, showed a decrease of 17 as compared with 1958. This was particularly surprising in regard to fly infestations, but it should be borne in mind that occupiers of premises take action themselves in many cases of light infestations where previously, official complaint would have been made to this department.

The figures given below are exclusive of verminous infestation:—

Premises infested with Cockroaches	...	13
Premises infested with Flies	... ..	3
Miscellaneous (Moths, Silverfish, etc.)	...	5
		<hr/>
		21
		<hr/>

In addition to the above, advice was given and insecticide supplied on recharge to deal with eleven other infestations.

Eight complaints were received concerning wasp nests but the Council does not provide a service for this and all complaints received are referred to a private contractor for attention and many complaints are made directly to him.

Verminous Premises and Persons

Ten premises were disinfested from vermin during the year. One infestation was of bed bugs the remaining nine were of fleas. In four of these latter cases a verminous animal (dog or cat) was found to be the cause of infestation.

One verminous person was removed to hospital for disinfestation while verminous bedding and furniture was removed from his cottage and destroyed and the premises were disinfested and cleansed.

In one other case arrangements were made for the removal and destruction of verminous bedding and replacement obtained from the welfare services.

Rodent Control

The Isle of Wight Joint Rodent Destruction Committee is an ad hoc authority responsible for the administration and operation of rodent control throughout the Island.

All complaints made, or instances found, of rodent infestation are referred to and dealt with by the County Rodent Officer and his staff.

They are also prepared, where possible, to deal with complaints regarding moles, bats, etc.

Shops

Inadequate staff and time have once again made it possible to inspect only a small number of shops under the health and welfare provisions of the Shops Act.

The Council having accepted delegated powers from the I.W. County Council, are a Shops Act authority in regard to closing hours and Sunday trading.

In this connection considerable difficulty arises particularly in regard to Sunday trading.

Complaints

It was noted that 1958 showed an increase in total complaints of 15% over 1957. The total of 281 complaints received in 1959 shows a further increase of 17% over 1958.

The figures do not include requests for inspections in regard to drainage, repairs, routine inspection or for food condemnation.

The most significant increase is in respect of complaints regarding food and food hygiene and bears out the belief that the general public are becoming more hygiene conscious.

The broad classification of the complaints received is:—

Sanitary Defects	...	...	...	...	45
Drainage and Sanitary Arrangements	...			...	41
Rodent Infestations	...	...	...	...	35
Insect Infestations (all)	...	...	...	...	34
Refuse Collection and Storage	...			...	12
Offensive Odours, Accumulations and Deposits	...	...	...	...	24
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	5

Smoke, Grit and Fume Emission	...	...	23
Water Supply	...	...	19
Food (Soundness) and Hygiene	...	...	26
Overcrowding	...	...	2
Infectious Disease, Illness, etc.	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	8
TOTAL			281

Talks

Sixteen talks were given to various organisations during the year.

Seven of these were on Food Hygiene and nine concerned the work of the department and local government topics in general.

Factories Act, 1937

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1958 for the Urban District of Sandown-Shanklin in the County of the Isle of Wight.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	70	10	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	76	13	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	4	3	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	7	6	—	1	—

Housing

In 1954 a survey was made of all properties to be included in a five year slum clearance programme.

The original programme has been subject to amendment, both by deletion and addition, and was fortunately not an extensive one. This programme has now been completed.

In the majority of cases, undertakings to convert, improve and modernise properties, originally scheduled for closure or demolition, have been accepted. This has meant the abolition of sub-standard conditions by the provision of satisfactory units of accommodation. It is worthy of note that the conversion and modernisation of an existing property is often more fitting, in its situation, than demolition and replacement by a building of contemporary design.

During the year the Council completed their current building programme and in view of the considerable reduction in the number of applicants on the Housing List it would seem inadvisable to embark on any further housing schemes for the time being. Furthermore the closing difference between the rent of Council properties and mortgage repayments of buying a property are an incentive to younger persons to purchase their own property. In addition privately owned accommodation to let, is more readily available.

Inspection of present housing conditions was made in every case on receipt of new applications for housing. This together with the annual revision of the Housing List necessitated 158 visits.

As a result of conditions found on such visits it was possible in a number of cases to improve applicants present circumstances by the service of notice upon the owner concerned.

The introduction of the Standard Improvement Grant facilities has not brought the response from owners that was expected. Although there has been an increase in the number of both Discretionary and Standard Improvement Grants made during the year, the number in relation to the potential, is very low. This is surprising in view of the fact that these schemes truly provide something for nothing. Despite publicity it is found that many people regard the local authority's payment as being a loan, whereas it is a grant and is not repayable unless the property is sold within a certain time limit.

Rent Act, 1957

During the year only five applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. A Certificate was granted in four cases and refused in one.

The above, together with the reduction in the number of requests for information, has shown that the difficulties regarding the Act and its implementation have now largely been resolved.

It has been noted that in many cases where Certificates have been granted and landlords have completed the work, the increased rent is paid by the tenant, without the Certificate of Disrepair having been cancelled because landlords fail to make the necessary application.

Food Hygiene

Some further progress has been made on the detailed inspection of food premises. Further improvements have also been made, both on the initiative of the owners and proprietors and as a result of representations from this department.

It is now over three years since the Food Hygiene Regulations came into force. It can be said that persons affected by them are now more conversant with them and that as a result of explanation, much of such resentment and opposition to their implementation has now been largely overcome.

The public demand also has had its effect, although it is to be regretted that the public reaction, when an unhygienic practice is observed or unhygienic conditions are found, is not stronger. A protest by a member of the general public, if justifiable, often has an immediate effect.

The emphasis in regard to food hygiene has now shifted from the provision of satisfactory premises and equipment to the satisfactory use of them and the maintenance of hygienic conditions.

The frequency of re-inspection to achieve this end will never diminish until such time as the "changeover" in staff employed in such premises is reduced and until such staff are conscientiously "hygiene minded".

Seven talks on food hygiene were given during the year and the interest displayed, particularly in the number and scope of questions asked, showed that the subject is still a topical one and rightly so.

The following table shows the classification of food premises under the heading of their main trade.

There is a continuing increase in the tendency for shops to sell a multiplicity of commodities, many of which have no connection with the main business.

CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	137
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	15
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	16
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	21
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	40
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	93
Kiosks and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	44
Licensed Premises (full licences)	...	...	...	...	...	34
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	6

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16

The premises registered under the above Act and Section are:—

(a) Registered for the Manufacture of Sausages and Preserved Foods	...	...	...	...	...	29
(b) Registered for the Manufacture, Storage/Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	137
TOTAL						166

These figures show an increase of 5 under (a) and in the case of (b) there were 31 deletions as a result of complete revision of all registrations, and 8 new registrations.

Milk Supply

Six premises are registered as dairies under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-1954. In addition there are 10 premises from which milk is sold in bottles as received, 6 of these being shops on caravan sites. There are in addition two distribution depots.

There are no pasteurisation plants within the district although most of the milk sold and consumed is in fact heat treated.

As the whole of the district is part of a "Specified Area" the sale of ungraded milk is prohibited.

The one dairyman who previously bottled bulk milk has now discontinued this part of his business.

During the year investigations have been carried out into the cause of milk spillage and loose caps. Spillage, however slight, is undesirable because the exterior of the bottle becomes sticky, dirt and dust adhere and contaminate the hands of those handling the bottles. This is particularly undesirable

in connection with school milks. Furthermore, milk crates become unnecessarily dirty.

Inspection and testing of the bottle capping plant showed that only about 1% of bottles are loosely capped. Subsequent investigation showed that the storage of bottled milk between filling and distribution, at too low a temperature caused the cream in the neck of the bottle to freeze and expand and slightly lift the cap.

During distribution the milk returns to atmospheric temperature but the loose cap permits spillage in transit.

A number of complaints were received concerning "dirty" bottles. In all cases but one the "dirt" was in fact marking and scratching of the external surface of the glass caused by friction with the metal crates. The producers have co-operated by removing as many of these bottles from circulation as is economically possible.

During the year an automatic milk vending machine was installed at one premises.

Its use proved popular despite the fact that the price of milk bought in this way is high. Sample results were satisfactory, although, unless cartons are dated, carelessness in servicing the machine could result in stale milk being sold.

Thirty eight samples were taken during the year from dairies, roundsmen and at schools.

There were no failures of the phosphates or turbidity tests and only one failure of the methylene blue test in the case of one sample of raw "T.T." milk.

The results of samples taken are given in the table below:—

Designation of Milk	No. Taken	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test		Turbidity Test		Sat.	Unsat.
		P	F	P	F	P	F		
T.T. ...	11	—	—	10	1	—	—	10	1
Pasteurised ...	16	16	—	16	—	—	—	16	—
Pasteurised T.T.	7	7	—	7	—	—	—	7	—
Sterilised ...	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	—
TOTALS ...	38	23	—	33	1	4	—	37	1

Ice Cream

There is each year, considerable change in the details concerning Ice Cream Registrations. Businesses change hands, suppliers vary, sales are discontinued or resumed and only in a few cases do proprietors notify changes to the department.

In order to bring departmental records up to date and to revise registration certificates where necessary, complete revision of the register was undertaken during the year, all existing registration certificates were cancelled and new ones issued with amendment where necessary.

During the year 8 new registrations were applied for and granted, bringing the total effective registrations after revision to 137 premises.

There are three producers whose premises are registered for manufacture. Two of these produce only for retail sale from their own premises. One produces for wholesale distribution throughout the Island.

The above sources with supplies from three national producers, who have depots or distribution facilities on the Island, supply all the ice cream retailed within the District.

Unnecessary duplication of sampling is avoided by a mutual arrangement between the Island authorities. This arrangement, which has been in operation for some years has proved effective.

The results of samples taken are given below:—

(1) *Ice Cream*

Thirty-one samples were taken and results classified:—

Grade I	...	...	8	Satisfactory
Grade II	...	...	15	Satisfactory
Grade III	...	...	5	Unsatisfactory
Grade IV	...	...	3	Unsatisfactory
			—	
			31	
			—	

The 8 unsatisfactory samples showed no pathogenic contamination. Failure of the methylene blue test, which is an indicative and not a statutory test for ice cream, was due to the presence of sporing organisms or to chemical changes in the ingredients.

(2) *Ice Lollies*

Six samples were taken:—

			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Fruit Lollies	...	...	2	—
Cream Lollies	...	...	1	3

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1959 came into force on 27th April, 1959.

For the first time ice lollies and water ices come within the scope of legislation. All ice lollies with a pH value below 4.5 being exempt from pasteurisation.

The other innovation in the Regulations is a sterilising process for ice cream mix but it would seem unlikely that this will be widely adopted owing to the cost of the necessary plant and the possible effects upon the final product.

Possibly its main use may be the marketing of an ice cream mix which has been sterilised, so that it can be manufactured into ice cream.

Foodstuffs Condemned

The amounts of various foodstuffs which were condemned and voluntarily surrendered during the year are given below:—

	lbs.
Tinned Meat (excluding ham)	320
Tinned Ham	570
Tinned Fruit, Vegetables, Soups etc. ...	1,490
Tinned Fish	71 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tinned Milk	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
Preserves, Sauces etc.	132 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salad Cream	35
Cheese	54
Sausages	77
Poultry	37 $\frac{1}{4}$
Shellfish and Sea Food	43
Fresh Fish	84
Imported Offal	46
TOTAL ...	3,046$\frac{1}{2}$

In addition to the above 196lbs. of meat pies and sausages voluntarily withdrawn from sale by the manufacturers were collected and destroyed.

Food examination necessitated 94 visits during the year, 62 being between May-September inclusive. The number of visits has been reduced to some extent by centralised collection of unfit food for condemnation, where possible. The total amount of foodstuffs condemned however during 1959 has shown an increase of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.

Bakehouses

There are six bakehouses in the district used all the year round and one which is used only during the season for the production of cakes and pastries, sold exclusively by the producers. None of the bakehouses is underground.

As a result of the business changing hands, one large bakehouse closed down during the year, supplies are now produced from the firm's Newport bakeries.

One firm produces bread only, for all its customers throughout the Island. Four produce bread and cakes and two of these also produce meat pies.

There is also one bakehouse which produces meat pies only except for fancy pastries at Christmas.

Extensive structural improvement giving increased working space, together with the installation of new equipment is in progress at one premises.

Conditions during the peak season were generally better than in previous years. This appeared to be due not to any reduction in production but to more staff being available. The fact that frequent and thorough cleansing and maintenance of machinery and equipment facilitates, not retards, maximum production at peak periods is being more widely appreciated.

Licensed Premises

The policy of brewers to carry out structural improvements has continued during the year and two premises have been modernised, improved and redecorated throughout.

During the year three complaints were received regarding licensed premises.

One referred to a dirty glass but the circumstances found on investigation were such as to throw grave doubt on the integrity of the complainant.

The other complaints referred to the condition of men's sanitary accommodation.

In both cases access to the accommodation was external, permitting use by persons other than patrons of the licensed premises.

There are few premises where such use is now possible and in view of the misuse by irresponsible members of the general public the tendency to give only internal access from the premises or to restrict the use to licensing hours only can only be regarded as reasonable. Licensees cannot be expected to provide, clean and maintain auxiliary public conveniences.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

(a) <i>General Sanitation</i>						<i>Visits</i>
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	58
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	349
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	49
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	12
Piggeries and Smallholdings			...	...	...	2
Refuse Collection		...	...	...	...	9
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	26

	Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	7
	Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	7
	Shops	...	...	...	...	59
	Schools	...	...	...	...	6
	Insect Pest Control—Inspections			...	...	46
	Insect Pest Control—Treatments			...	...	9
	Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	13
	Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	124
	Interviews with Owners, Builders etc. on site					36
	Disinfection Visits	...	...	...	...	6
(b)	<i>Housing</i>					
	Premises inspected under Public Healths Acts					53
	Premises re-inspected under Public Health Acts					107
	Premises inspected under Housing Acts			...		4
	Premises re-inspected under Housing Acts			...		40
	Visits re Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	5
	Filthy and Verminous Premises			...	...	25
	Council Properties	...	...	...	...	63
	Housing Application Visits		...	...	...	158
	Rent Act Visits	...	...	...	...	23
	Visits to Work in Progress		...	...	...	223
(c)	<i>Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning</i>					
	Inquiries re Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	60
(d)	<i>Meat and Food Inspection</i>					
	Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	29
	Visits to Food Premises		...	...	...	155
	Visits to Butchers	...	...	...	...	18
	Visits to Dairies and Milkshops			...	...	3
	Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	...		...	...	8
	Visits to Grocers	...	...	...	...	13
	Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers			...	...	27
	Visits to Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	39
	Visits to Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	6
	Milk Sampling Visits (including schools)			...	...	42
	Ice Cream Sampling Visits	...	...	...	...	38
	Food (Miscellaneous)	...	...	...	...	3
	Inspection and Disposal of Food			...	...	201
	Laboratory Visits	...	...	...	...	15
	Visits re Food Complaints		...	...	...	31
(e)	<i>Additional</i>					
	Petroleum	...	...	...	...	67
	Shops Act (Closing Hours)		...	...	...	68
	TOTAL	...				2,342

Notices

Act	Informal		Formal	
	Served	Complied	Served	Complied
Public Health Act	69	71	4	3
Food and Drugs Act and Regulations	35	31	—	—
Housing Acts	3	1	—	—
Rent Act	3	2	—	—
Shops Act	2	2	—	—
TOTALS	112	107	4	3

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Samples taken by the Weights and Measures Department, Isle of Wight County Council in Sandown-Shanklin Urban District during the year ending 31st December, 1959.

Article	Number taken	Unsatisfactory	
		Composition	Label
Apple & Strawberry Jam	1		
Blackcurrant Flavour			
Cordial	1		
Creamed Fish	1		
Custard Powder	1		
Double Soup	3		
Glucose Syrup	1*		1
Ice Cream	5		
Jiffi Jelly	1		
Milk	2		
Milkshake	1		
Pepper (Paprika)	1		
Pepper (White)	1		
Sausages (Beef)	3		
Sausages (Pork)	13		
Table Jelly	1		
TOTAL	36		1

**Product being discontinued*

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the Isle of Wight County Council for supplying the above details of sampling undertaken in this district in 1959.

The County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the Urban District.

